

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 OES-07 DLOS-09 SP-02
ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
ICA-11 /143 W

-----041325 081104Z /11

P 081040Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1458
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10102

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. PRESS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, TGEN, TOCY, US, UR
SUBJECT: LOS-MSR AND US-USSR WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT (06.00)

REF: STATE 114351

1. DURING MEETING AT SCST MAY 4, AYKAZYAN, READING FROM
NOTES IN RUSSIAN, PROVIDED SCICOUNS FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE
ON LOS-MSR:

"THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE LOS CONFER-
ENCE WITH REGARD TO MARINE RESEARCH IS DEFINED IN THE CON-
TEXT OF OTHER ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE.
THE SOVIET DELEGATION CONSIDERS THE SUMMARY DRAFT (SVODNIY
PROYEKT) ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE
COMPROMISE. WE ALSO CONSIDER NOT APPROPRIATE (NYE
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UM'YESTNIY) THE POSITION OF THE U.S. SIDE TO CONNECT THE
POSITION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RE-
SEARCH WITH THE RENEWAL OF THE WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT, IN
WHICH BOTH SIDES ARE EQUALLY INTERESTED."

2. AYKAZYAN SAID THE ABOVE TEXT WAS APPROVED BY KIRILLIN,
AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MFA AND OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES,

AND WILL SERVE AS KIRILLIN'S RESPONSE TO DR. PRESS' LETTER. HE ADDED HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE "SUMMARY DRAFT" THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER ACCEPTABLE, OR WHETHER THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS OR WOULD CHANGE ITS POSITION AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

3. WHEN ASKED WHAT WAS "NOT APPROPRIATE" IN DR. PRESS' LETTER, AYKAZYAN STATED THE SOVIETS CONSIDER BILATERAL MATTERS, SUCH AS THE OCEANS AGREEMENT, MUST BE DEALT WITH ENTIRELY SEPARATELY FROM MULTILATERAL CONCERNS SUCH AS LOS; THE ISSUES SHOULD NEVER BE MIXED. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE DR. PRESS' REACTION, THE U.S. DOES NOT TAKE SO NARROW A VIEW OF COOPERATION; ONE OF THE BENEFITS WE EXPECT FROM THE BILATERALS IS THE FURTHERANCE OF SOVIET-U.S. COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN RELATED MULTILATERAL FORA. SOVIET-U.S. COOPERATION IN WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, STRENGTHENS THE HEALTH BILATERAL, WHILE LACK OF SUCH COOPERATION ON LOS-MSR WEAKENS THE OCEANS AGREEMENT. AYKAZYAN, SMILING WANLY, STATED THE SOVIET RESPONSE MUST REMAIN UNCHANGED.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE U.S. DECISION TO RENEW THE OCEANS BILATERAL BE REVIEWED AGAIN IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SOVIET RESPONSE ON LOS-MSR. THE STRANGE MANNER THE SOVIETS CHOSE TO RESPOND TO THE PRESS LETTER, AND AYKAZYAN'S EMPHASIS ON "CONSULTATIONS WITH MFA" WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDING REPLY, LEAD TO THE SUPPOSITION THAT THE RESPONSE WAS DICTATED BY THE MFA, POSSIBLY OVER THE OBJECTION OF THE SCST AND THE SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMUNITY. FURTHERMORE, THE RESPONSE APPEARS TO BE AMBIGUOUS AS TO PRECISELY WHAT "SUMMARY TEXT" IS AN "ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE" IN SOVIET EYES. IT MAY BE A BLUFF, AND AT THE VERY LEAST THE U.S. SHOULD NOT LET THE SOVIETS OFF THE HOOK BY ANNOUNCING OUR INTENTION TO RENEW THE OCEANS BILATERAL UNTIL THE CURRENT LOS CONFERENCE HAS RUN ITS COURSE--EVEN IF THIS SHOULD BE OUR DECISION AS REPORTED REFTEL. IF THE SOVIETS PERSIST IN THEIR UNHELPFUL MSR STANCE, WE BELIEVE THE BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TERMINATION OF THE OCEANS AGREEMENT JUNE 19. ITS BENEFITS TO THE U.S. HAVE BEEN MARGINAL, AND THE FEW WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES NOW UNDERWAY COULD CONTINUE UNDER ANOTHER AEGIS. RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE READ BY THE SOVIETS AS OUR ACQUIESCENCE TO THE VIEW THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIALIZED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HAS NO CONNECTION WHATEVER WITH SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN OTHER CONTEXTS. IT WOULD ALSO UNDERMINE IN THEIR EYES THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR INTENTIONS TO OBTAIN BALANCE OF BENEFITS IN ALL AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. END COMMENT. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, LAW OF THE SEA, OCEANS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW10102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780194-0924
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaacssv.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 114351
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2762809
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS-MSR AND US-USSR WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT (06.00)
TAGS: PLOS, TGEN, TOCY, US, UR
To: STATE WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014